

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL JURISDICTION MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
April 4, 2003**

The local meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 8:30 a.m., on April 4, 2003, at the Overlake Hospital Conference Center, 1035 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue, Washington.

Commissioners present were: Aubrey Davis, Chair, Ed Barnes, Elmira Forner, George Kargianis, A. Michèle Maher, Chris Marr and Connie Niva.

Chair Davis welcomed the meeting participants and began introductions around the table.

STATE OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Dave Dye, WSDOT, Urban Corridors Administrator, provided an overview of the regional transportation system and a capital investment update. Regional transportation problems have increased as a result of population growth and the decline of real revenue resulting in congestion. Washington's dependence on gas tax for state transportation spending is greater than 38 other states. He described regional corridor projects outlining the objectives, status, current options and funding proposals. Lorena Eng, Northwest Region Administrator, described the status of other King County projects, and provided an update on the I-5 South HOV/HOT lanes. Secretary MacDonald commented regarding transportation legislation and the State's economy.

THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express, Sound Transit, gave a presentation regarding Sound Transit's capital projects outlining current and future projects that will enhance mobility in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. These projects incorporate local jurisdiction revenues into Regional Express, Sounder Commuter rail, Link Light rail and park-and-ride lot projects that will directly benefit sub areas of the three counties. Sound Transit will continue to develop the Express Bus network and take another look at poorly performing services and reinvest those resources in routes with characteristics that have produced high ridership and productive services.

John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division, provided a historical overview regarding statewide air capacity and the siting of commercial service airports. Theresa Smith, WSDOT Aviation Planning Manager, briefed the Commission regarding regional airport planning to assess future air transportation demand. She stated that the 2003 System Plan Inventory preliminary findings indicate growth and decline in specific areas. Forecasted operations to 2005 in the Puget Sound area indicate a seven percent increase. Mr. Sibold commented that communities must use caution in development to meet future aviation demands in Washington State. Mary McCumber, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), provided a regional perspective regarding air transportation. She outlined the regional airport system and their strategic plan for

aviation that includes issues, mandates, roles and a multi-year work program for aviation needs within the region. Steve Keihl, Senior Planner, PSRC, briefed the Commission regarding the activity at regional airports explaining air cargo strategy and future programs to provide a sustainable airport system. He commented on flight restrictions and security issues that impact airports.

Rob McKenna and David Irons, King County Councilmembers, briefed the Commission regarding the status of the Regional Transportation Investment District's project plans and revenue proposals. The Executive Board has developed project lists and financing and revenue options, along with performance measures and criteria. The Executive Board will adopt a draft plan by May 2003, and the final plan by July 2003, with the possibility of a November 2003 vote. Outreach sessions are being planned both now and after the draft plan is adopted to get input into the revenue levels and sources and projects. Connie Marshall, Mayor, City of Bellevue, expressed concerns regarding projects being dropped because of the 20 percent cap. Commissioners commented regarding distribution of RTID funds, non-18th Amendment and non-bonded funds.

TOLLING ANALYSIS

Charlie Howard, Director, Policy and Planning Office, and Mike Cummings, Supervisor, Corridor Planning, updated the Commission regarding the Central Puget Sound HOV to HOT lane conversion evaluation. The Department has evaluated the possible implementation of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane systems for managing off-peak HOV lane capacity. The study concluded that simply adjusting hours of operation or vehicle occupancy were not adequate tools for efficiently managing the HOV system. At the request of the Commission the analysis included the principle of maintaining trip reliability and travel time performance for transit and vanpools in the HOV lanes. The Department has studied tolling as part of several large corridor improvement projects that include value pricing by variable tolls, offers the potential to better manage the highway system and to raise critically needed funding. After a detailed analysis is completed a proposal will be presented to the Commission before the end of 2003. Commissioners and meeting participants shared a question and answer period.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

Bruce Agnew, Director, Cascadia Project, Discovery Institute, explained changes that he would propose to help eliminate traffic problems in King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap Counties. He stated that the large number of government agencies dealing with transportation is part of the reason why the four-county area has not done more to address traffic problems. He feels that consolidation of boards is the way to improve regional organizational structure and transportation accountability. Mary McCumber, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council, shared the Council's perspective regarding transportation in the four counties. She stated that things have improved, but the system is complicated and few perhaps understand how transportation decisions are made within the region. Commissioners commented regarding transportation solutions and organizational structures that participate in transportation related issues.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express, Sound Transit, gave a presentation to the Commission regarding regional bus service in South and East King County. She provided an overview of regional bus services, and connections to East King County and South King County sub areas. Future regional routes will act as a central spine, supported by local service, which is provided by transit partners to provide local service to transit users. Jim Jacobson, Deputy General Manager, King County Metro, provided a report on King County Metro suburban services that outline the proposed reshaping of the system over the next six-years to enhance transit routes and schedules in suburban areas.

Ron Posthuma, Assistant Director, King County DOT, Scott Kirkpatrick, Sound Transit, TOD Manager, and Charles Prestrud, WSDOT Planning and Policy Office, briefed the Commission regarding the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to increase transit ridership, meet Growth Management Act goals and increase the supply of affordable housing. Mr. Posthuma stated that King County DOT would continue to work with the Department, transit agencies and local jurisdictions to assess their park-and-ride transit oriented development plans. King County DOT's intent is to return to the Commission with policy options and their study for guidance regarding state participation in TOD projects. In conclusion he added that TOD has demonstrated benefits to everyone, puts affordable housing in the suburbs, puts more people on buses, and delivers a direct benefit to those paying the gasoline tax by reducing congestion on highways.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATURE COMMENT PERIOD

Doug Rauh, resident, BainBridge Island, provided comments regarding Bremerton National Airport and land usage. He asked that the Commission look at land use around airports.

Dennis Swanson, resident, Auburn, expressed his concern regarding the approval of an access permit issued to the Muckleshoot Tribe. His primary concern is the traffic impact that it will have SR 164, SR 18 and SR 167.

Will Kredlik, resident, Kirkland, commented regarding transportation projects and funding. He expressed his concern regarding Sound Transit and an alleged violation of contract.

Vic Bishop, resident, Bellevue, commented regarding SR 520 environmental impact and proposals. He stated that he supports transit, but not as a total solution to transportation problems. He expressed his support of vanpools.

Jean Amick, citizen, commented regarding her concerns with the Trans Lake Project. She expressed support of the preservation of Interstate 5.

Jan Knuteson, citizen, commented regarding the use of urban resources and park-and-ride lots.

Commissioners and roundtable participants expressed their appreciation for a productive and informative meeting.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. on April 4, 2003.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AUBREY DAVIS, Chair

GEORGE KARGIANIS, Vice-Chair

EDWARD BARNES, Member

CHRIS MARR, Member

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

CONNIE NIVA, Member

A. MICHELE MAHER, Member

DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

SHELLY MCGUIRE, Executive Assistant